

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Lallie Johnson Jeffers)	SUSPENSION
)	
Certificate # 136096)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2003. On December 5, 2001 and October 4, 2002, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Jeffers a notice of hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate # 136096 (certificate). Ms. Jeffers did not claim the first notice that was sent by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. She received the second notice, which was served upon her by the Richland County Sheriff's Department on October 8, 2002, as evidenced by an Affidavit of Service from the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Jeffers initially requested a hearing. She subsequently agreed through her attorney, I.S. Leevy Johnson, Esquire, to the following terms: (1) her certificate will be suspended from November 12, 2001, through November 11, 2004, (2) she will submit to random drug testing from November 12, 2003 through November 11, 2004, at a facility approved by the Department, (3) she must pass a character fitness review by the State Board of Education prior to the reinstatement of her certificate, and (4) this suspension will be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts on the statutory grounds of "unprofessional conduct." After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the proposal of the parties to suspend Ms. Jeffers's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

Ms. Jeffers holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over eighteen years of teaching experience. She was under contract with the Richland County School District One (District) for the 2001-2002 school year. On August 30, 2001, the District placed Ms. Jeffers on suspension from her teaching position at Eau Claire High School after she was arrested on August 28, 2001 on the charge of possession of crack cocaine, which is a felony. Ms. Jeffers did not return to the classroom and resigned on October

Lallie J.
Jeffers

136096

Initial
here

Date

19, 2001. Police officers observed Ms. Jeffers exchanging money for crack cocaine and followed her to her home. A search of her car revealed a glass pipe in her purse that is commonly used to smoke illegal narcotics and 2 rocks of crack cocaine on the floor of her vehicle. She made this transaction at noon on August 28, 2001, and left Eau Claire High School without authorization, to make the purchase. Ms. Jeffers was convicted.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes “Unprofessional conduct...and Crime against the law of this State or the United States...” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its decision to accept the proposal of the parties to suspend Ms. Jeffers’s certificate # 136096, from November 12, 2001 through November 11, 2004, upon the terms and conditions stated above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 12, 2003

I, Lallie Johnson Jeffers, SC Teaching Certificate # 136096, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Wednesday, November 12, 2003, for approval.

/S/ Lallie J. Jeffers
Lallie Johnson Jeffers

Nov. 11, 2003
Date